

**ACEI** ASSOCIATION OF  
CONSULTING ENGINEERS  
OF IRELAND

**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS!**



 acei.ie

ACEI MEMBER NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2023 Edition



## Christmas Message From the President



Dear Colleague,

I hope this email finds you well and that you are looking forward to a well-earned break after a busy year for our industry.

Already 2024 is shaping up to be even busier for us all and the ACEI. I'd like to thank you personally for all your efforts throughout the year. The excellent work you deliver reflects positively on you, our sector and the ACEI. Next year, our sector will continue to be at the forefront of Ireland's efforts to digitalise construction, solve Ireland's housing crisis, deliver the NDP and mitigate the effects of climate change.

I've been honoured to represent our sector in many engagements with our Government and its representatives this year. It's clear that the consulting engineering sector is held in high regard due in no small part to the ACEI and the work of its committees. In 2024, the ACEI will be embarking on an even more ambitious programme of work, representing you and seeking to shape policies that enable your businesses to thrive and excel. If you are interested in getting involved, contact Shane and the team in ACEI – your contribution and input will be most welcome.

I wish you and your families a happy, prosperous, and peaceful 2024.

James Kavanagh

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## A note from the Secretary General



The ACEI has had a very busy 2024 working on your behalf. This year, our Executive Body and committees effectively represented the consulting engineering sector at all levels across the Irish political system. It was evident to me when I took over the Secretary General role from Dr Sarah Ingle in March how well regarded the ACEI is amongst policy makers. This is a result of Sarah's work and that of ACEI's members over the past decade.

This year, the ACEI has successfully influenced at national level government's approach to infrastructure investment, procurement policy, PI, digitalisation of construction and sustainability policy. The ACEI's budget submission highlighted how the Government could harness the consulting engineering sector to deliver the National Development Plan, Housing for All and Climate Action Plan. We called on the Government to increase infrastructure investment, introduce NCCs and alter conditions of engagement in Government projects. As you're aware the Government announced the Future Ireland and Infrastructure, Climate and Nature Fund which will bring certainty to the infrastructure pipeline regardless of the economic cycle. In addition, the ACEI's suggestion that the additional funding be allocated to bring priority projects through the design phase to accelerate delivery of the NDP.

Our attendance at the Construction Sector Group was hugely beneficial in advocating for these changes also. The CSG and its Innovation and Digital Adoption Sub-group have been busily updating policies on digitalisation of construction, the circular economy, training and upskilling, R&D and procurement. The ACEI has significantly influenced the work of this group with a focus on increasing investment in public infrastructure, housing and climate change mitigation.

Through our comprehensive stakeholder engagement programme, the ACEI has put the concerns of the sector in front of our key clients including Dublin City Council, Uisce Eireann, TII, Cork City Council, the Housing Finance Agency. There were 15 engagements with priority clients in addition to our committees who engaged with multiple stakeholders throughout the year. This included important submissions on Modern Methods of Construction, the Government's Consultant Engagement process, the introduction of NCCs and others.

Most importantly, the ACEI has intervened directly to protect the sector's ability to operate. We are currently engaged with the HSE in trying to ensure a new framework they intend to launch is not detrimental to the sector. In addition, we have been engaging with local authorities on a series of requirements they have developed that are beyond the agreed scope in BCAR that if implemented would place consulting engineers in difficulty from a legal and insurance perspective. We will continue to monitor these issues and I'd again request that if any requirements over what the industry norm is are sought from you, please notify the ACEI so we can make representations on your behalf.

As ever, the ACEI sought to improve the sector's capacity and capabilities by providing learning and development opportunities for members. In 2024, the ACEI will engage in a major campaign to promote 'Chartered Status' amongst the membership. The ACEI's 'Bridging the Gap' report identified increasing the numbers of Chartered Consulting Engineers in the sector as critical in enabling companies to get value for their work and expertise in the market. On a related note, the ACEI will be seeking to increase the number of FConsEI and RConsEI within its member companies so keep an eye out for the ACEI's flagship Leadership and Graduate programmes which are a prerequisite. This year, nearly 60 consulting engineers completed the ACEI's

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In 2024, the ACEI itself will be embarking on a new member recruitment drive. Our goal is to increase members strongly over the coming years to leverage the sector's expertise and influence even more strongly how the construction industry and government policy evolves.

In today's ConsultA, I include some of the key events already planned for 2024 and encourage you and your colleagues to attend. You might be aware that our Awards are scheduled for March 22<sup>nd</sup> and project nominations should be sent to [@Projects](#)

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support throughout 2023. A very happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year from myself, Louise and Toni in the ACEI.

Shane Dempsey

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## NEW MEMBERS APPROVED

We welcome the newest additions to our ACEI community who have been approved recently.

We look forward to future collaboration with you and your member firms.

New member firms are - [Engenuiti](#) and their associated FConsEI Robert White.

And [Furey Consulting Engineers](#) and their associated FConsEI Emmet Furey.

New FConsEI from existing member firms are Peter Morehan from [J. B. Barry and Partners Limited](#), Niall O'Callaghan from [Kilgallen and Partners Consulting Engineers Ltd.](#), Tara O'Leary from [Sweco](#) and Elaine Shields from [Ryan Hanley](#).

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

# EVENTS SCHEDULE

19  
JAN

CONSTRUCTION SECTOR GUIDE TO  
DEFECTIVE CONCRETE BLOCK SCHEME

📍 Inishowen Gateway Hotel

18  
FEB

THE HARDWARE SHOW 2024

📍 RDS Simmonscourt, Dublin, Ireland

12  
MAR

ACEI AGM 2024

📍 Online via MS Teams

22  
MAR

ACEI ANNUAL AWARD DINNER 2024

📍 The Intercontinental Hotel, Dublin

15  
APR

TRANSPORT RESEARCH ARENA  
(TRA) 2024

📍 Online

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As we embark on a new year, ACEI is excited to present a lineup of engaging events. Mark your calendars for these valuable opportunities to connect, learn, and stay at the forefront of industry trends.

Check our website regularly for the latest events planned.

[SEE ALL UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

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## REMINDER FOR THE AWARDS

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Time is running by, and we want to make sure your outstanding projects and rising stars are in the spotlight! Don't miss the chance to showcase your achievements and recognize the emerging leaders in our industry.

Highlight the brilliance of your projects by submitting them for the ACEI Engineering Excellence Awards. We're seeking innovation, sustainability, and excellence across various categories. Let your project stand out among the best in the industry!

**Deadline for Project Nominations: 4pm, Thursday 11 January 2024**

[SUBMIT NOW](#)

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## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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# MEMBER PROFILE



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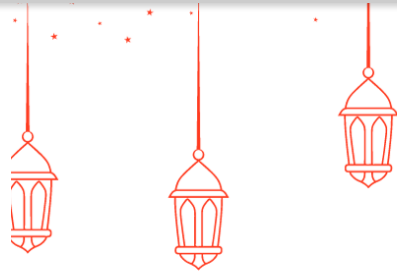
 [acei.ie](https://www.acei.ie)

In this edition of our ACEI Member Spotlight, we're thrilled to showcase the remarkable contributions of [GDCL Consulting](#) through their involvement in the prestigious WuXi Biologics project.

GDCL Consulting played a pivotal role in the realization of the WuXi Biologics project—an impressive 48,000 m<sup>2</sup> ultra-modern biologics plant. This precision-engineered facility, valued at €350 million, stands as a testament to the excellence of ACEI members.

Read more at their website at the link below, if you'd like to be featured in a future edition of ConsultA as a spotlight member, get in touch with Louise at [info@acei.ie](mailto:info@acei.ie)

[READ MORE](#)



# WE'LL BE CLOSED

## 20TH DEC TO 3RD JAN



In the spirit of the holiday season, we wanted to inform you that ACEI will be closed from December 20th to January 3rd.

During this period, our offices will be closed, and normal operations will resume on January 3rd. We appreciate your understanding, and we look forward to reconnecting with you in the new year.





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#### ACEI Contact Details

You can contact the Secretariat by visiting us in person, calling us at 01-6425588, or emailing us at [info@acei.ie](mailto:info@acei.ie).

Don't forget you can keep up to date with all the latest activity and share your thoughts on our social channels – [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#)  
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